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## Saguaro National Park News Release

*For Immediate Release*

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### CLIMATE CHANGE A GREAT CHALLENGE FOR SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

Tucson, AZ – “When it comes to climate change, all signs indicate that the Southwest will be among the hardest hit regions of the continent,” notes Jonathan Overpeck, Professor of Geosciences and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Arizona. “Everyone has a stake in finding out what the challenge will be, and what we can do about it.” In its report *National Parks In Peril: The Threats of Climate Disruption*, the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization named Saguaro National Park among the 25 parks most at risk.

A symposium highlighting recent research in Saguaro National Park and the surrounding Sonoran Desert will be held this Saturday, October 2, 2010, from 9am to 4:30pm at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (Warden Oasis Theatre).

This symposium, intended for the general public, will present results of recent research on current and projected climate change in the southwest. The focus will be on research at Saguaro National Park, exploring how climate change may be altering our desert’s plant and animal life.

Keynote speakers will be Dr. Jonathan Overpeck, Co-Director of the Institute of the Environment, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) co-author and Nobel Prize winner; and Dr. Travis Huxman, Director of Biosphere 2 and Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona.

The symposium is co-sponsored by Saguaro National Park, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit at the University of Arizona, and the Friends of Saguaro National Park.

Admission is free but attendees must RSVP to Saguaro National Park by calling 520-733-5153.

For additional information about the symposium’s supporting organization, please visit the websites listed below:

[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu)

[www.ag.arizona.edu/dscsu](http://www.ag.arizona.edu/dscsu)

[www.desertmuseum.org/](http://www.desertmuseum.org/)

[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)